GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3190
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
PROMOTING COMMUNAL HARMONY
Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Foundation for Communal Harmony has conducted seminars for effective sensitization of Police Officers during the year 2007, till date;

(b) if so, the total number of such seminars conducted and the details of points discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) the total number of children orphaned and became destitute due to communal violence and the amount of financial assistance provided by the Foundation during the said period, Statewise; and

(d) the total number of persons who were given Kabir Purskars for promoting communal harmony during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Two seminars were conducted by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) during 2007. The main thrust of the seminar was on effective sensitization of police officers in promoting communal harmony and national integration. It was also discussed in the seminars that the police may promote communal harmony by educating the public about the benefits of communal harmony, and effectively enforcing relevant laws to address the problems of communal disharmony through prompt investigations, arrest and prosecution of the offenders etc. It was emphasized that the police can remove ignorance, prejudice and fear from the minds of the persons of different communities living together, taking them into confidence by organizing inter-community meetings of prominent members, peace committees, prominent associations, unions, voluntary organizations, media persons etc. The participants in the seminars were of the opinion that regardless of one's personal faith, every policeman has to act in absolutely just and neutral manner for restoration of confidence between the citizen and the police. It was reiterated that in a pluralistic, multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society, a close police-public relationship is vital for securing public involvement and cooperation in the promotion and maintenance of harmonious relationship in the society. The speakers stressed that specific modules on communal harmony should be included in the induction and mid-career training courses for police officers at all levels.

(c): NFCH provides financial assistance to such children who are orphaned/rendered destitute in caste, communal, ethnic or terrorist violence and whose cases for assistance are forwarded to NFCH by the concerned District Magistrates/Collectors along with required documents. The information with regard to number of children orphaned/rendered destitute in communal violence is not maintained separately by NFCH. The total assistance of Rs. 4,93,99,850 was released to 4429 children of different States during 2007-08 affected by the caste, communal, ethnic or terrorist violence.

(d): One person has been selected for Kabir Puraskar for promoting communal harmony during the year 2007. In 2007 Shri Ram Babu Singh Chauhan was presented Kabir Puraskar for the year 2006.